(a) whether the Railway Board has framed a policy to allot contracts to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes persons on priority basis;

(b) if iso whether the said polfoy is being strictly adhered to by the Railways; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the number of trains in Indian Railways where pantry cars are being run on contract basis and the number of contracts awarded to the SC/ST, out of them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) As per existing policy, catering/vending contracts upto 1/2 units are reserved for SC/ST candidates.

(b) This policy ij being followed by all the Zonal Railways.

(c) 26 pairs of trains have pantry cars run by licensees. One pair is being managed by Scheduled Caste candidate. Pantry car is considered as one Unit.

Pakistan Premier's proposal fo rNuclear Test ban agreement between India and Pakistan

1767. 3HTtl MAHENDRA PRASAD : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the proposal reiterated by Pakistani Prime Minister during her recent visit to the USA for a nuclear test ban agreement between India and Pakistan, as a first step towards a nuclear weapon free South Asia; and

(b) if so, what i$_{8}$ the Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been our consistent view that the global implications of tho issue of nuclear weapon$_{s}$ proliferation makes it impossible to treat thi$_{s}$ as a question capable of being solved on bilateral or regional basi».

British Prime Minister's offer to cooperate v to fight terrorism

1768. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased t$_{0}$ state;

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item published in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 15th July, 1989, regarding offer of British Prime Ministe$_{r}$ to cooperate with Indi$_{a}$ in fighting terrorism; and

(b) if iso what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Prime Ministers of India and Great Britain had a meeting in Pari$_{s}$ on 14th July 1989. The problem of terrorist activities aimed against India from the British soil was discussed. The British Prime Minister reaffirmed the commitment of her country to extend full cooperation in dealing with this problem and specific steps inthis direction were discussed.

Long waiting lists of passengers on Calcutta Agertala Sector

1769. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is $_{a}$ fact that ther$_{e}$ is usually $_{a}$ long waiting list of passengers on Calcutta.Agartala sector and *vice-versa;* and

(b) if so, whether any additional flight on this sector is likely to be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINIsrRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While Indian Airlines has plans to augment capacity betwee$_{n}$ Calcutta.Agartala sector, Vayudot is not able to offer additional services On this sector due to apacity constraints.